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Subject: CTAL Plans

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Date of Information: 18 January 1954

Place Acquired: Mexico City

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1. ~~Antonio~~ <sup>\*</sup>GARCIA Moreno, Mexican labor leader and official of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL), stated that Guatemala is a focal point upon which the CTAL must concentrate. He said that in Guatemala at present a tremendously strong labor movement is being formed which could eventually affect all of Central America. The CTAL had hopes that the propaganda and agitation work it was doing throughout Central America, and which is under the direction of Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ (head of Confederacion General de Trabajadores (CGT) in Guatemala), would result in two changes:

a. The workers and the farmers would become discontent with their way of life;

b. With the growth of discontent, they would become politically aware of the situation and be made to turn against the actual anti-Communist leaders of their respective countries. All of this could be accomplished without the direct intervention of Communist or Guatemalan leaders. Thus Guatemala assumes a two-fold importance:

1) To use it as a base from which to infiltrate into other Central American political groups;

2) To help other leftist groups in Central America from that country.

With this in mind, it is CTAL policy to help in all ways possible with the programs of the ARBENZ government.

2. GARCIA Moreno went on to say that since the USA was aware of this movement, it was doing all it could to foster discontent and rebellion in Guatemala, but it was very easy to present Guatemala to the Central American republics and people as a progressive country fighting against the imperialism of the USA. Furthermore, Guatemala would gain many sympathizers which is shown in the fact that the various groups of "Amigos de Guatemala" in various

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Central American countries have many members who are definitely non-communist and anti-American. Thus, Guatemala could and will serve the CTAL as a base from which to work throughout all of Central America, Cuba and the West Indies. He said that in the case of British Guiana, where the leftist parties had experienced a complete defeat politically, not much was lost and the CTAL had not given up the fight. GARCIA Moreno said Vicente LOMBARDO Toledano had discussed the matter with Luis SAILLANT in Vienna, and they had made great plans, one of which is that for the time being the CTAL will not admit any of the labor unions in the West Indies or British Guiana as members, in order to forestall the English from accusing them of being Communist. However, the labor leaders of that region such as Smith, Blackman and Hart were regarded by the WFTU as men of confidence and they are steadily working on the laborers by means of propaganda and agitation under the pretext of unifying them in order to fight for independence.

3. In closing, GARCIA Moreno said that Asia was going to be flooded by strikes and workers movements, all as a primary phase for movements of liberation which are to come later.

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